

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

April 16, 2015

Commission Members Present:

Genevieve Walker-Lightfoot
Ivette Lopez
Bianca Chang
Frank V. Eastham, Jr.
Rev. Turner
Ilene Kessler
Tim Johnson
Opel T. Jones, I

Commission Members Absent:

Catherine Hyde
H. Taylor Walls
Giovanna Guarnieri

Staff:

Stephanie M. Chapple, Recording Secretary
Dr. Barbara J. Sands, OHR Administrator
Barry Sanders, HRC Legal Counsel

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

2. PUBLIC FORUM – Lonnie Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer; Phil Nichols, Special Assistant; and David Lee, Director of Constituent Services & Community Partnerships attended the meeting to discuss and clarify CB4-2015. All were in agreement at the conclusion of the discussion.

3. HRC CASES UPDATE – LEGAL COUNSEL – Appeal denied for HRC Case No. 15-03-002.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

March meeting minutes were approved.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT – Chair and Commissioners will discuss questions and concerns about CB4, upcoming public hearing

6. COMMITTEES/ REPORTS

- *Finance and Fair Lending – Genevieve* – No report.
- *Legislation – Ivette and Genevieve* – No report.
- *Education & Community Outreach – Frank, Rev. Turner* – The African American Roundtable and the Police Department have formed a partnership to address concerns and building better relationships in the African American community. On Saturday, June 20th, both groups will host “Collaborative Community” roundtable to discuss three components: (1) understand goals and strategies of the Howard County Community-based polices; (2) get community input and critique the Howard County community based policing; (3) utilize small group conversations to create enhanced partnerships between the police department and the African American community. This event is open to the public. Adults and youth are strongly encouraged to attend.
- *Law Enforcement – Opel & Tim* – No report.
- *HRC Awards Program – Ivette and Bianca* – No report.
- *Human Trafficking Task Force – Genevieve* – No report.
- *LGBTQ Committee – Catherine* – No report.
- *Housing – Ivette and Ilene* – The Maryland State Housing Dept has grants to assist buyers in fixing up and repairing previously distressed properties as a result of short sales and foreclosures. More information will be shared at the May meeting.
- *Aging & Disability Matters – Bianca, Genevieve* – No report
- *Health Care Access – Bianca* – 1. more county residents have access to healthcare, modeling other workgroups after Healthy Weight to break down into smaller action item groups to focus on different aspects of access to care such as language and transportation, beginning to create a data repository for information, 2. Behavioral Health task force presenting official report to County Executive, work group also plans to break into smaller action groups.
- *Student Life (New Committee) Taylor* – No report.

7. STUDENT REPORT – No report.

8. STAFF REPORT/UPDATES – 11 Cases filed, 10 cases closed, 2 HBI Cases Reported, MLK Commission event plans underway, Fair Housing Training on 5/4/15.

9. NEW BUSINESS –

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES –

11. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.